

A
REMONSTRANCE

TO VINDICATE
HIS EXCELLENCE,

ROBERT

Earle of Essex,

From some false Aspersions cast upon his

P R O C E E D I N G S.

To the 17. of *August*. 1643.



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He rash and injurious speeches, which some mis-understanding people have let fall concerning the actions of our noble *Generall*, have drawne from us, with no lesse justice then necessity, this short and true vindication. Though his *Excellence*, secure in his own worth and conscience, would forgive such calumnies, and that in the noblest way of forgiveness, to take no notice at all of them; yet we who are privy to all passages, whom it concerns in Justice to satisfie the world, and whom it more behoves to vindicate than it can doe any man to calumniate, cannot be guilty of so great a neglect, as not endeavouring to make the truth appeare. And since it is proved by frequent experience, that the grounds of all jealousies and suspitions, which people ignorant of the present actions are apt to conceive against any man, are usually raised from some precedent demeanours of the same person: let it not be thought amiss, if we digresse a little from the present narration, in shewing what his *Excellence* has formerly been, and how little cause can arise from thence for any man to suspect his truth, valour, or discretion.

It will not be denied that my Lord of *Essex* was esteemed as loyall a servant to the Royall Family, as true a Patriot to all interests of *England*, and as constant an adventurer in the maintenance of the Reformed Religion (and it has pleased God to put *England* of late years into that condition, that the greatest advancement of her temporall interest is by protection of the Reformed Religion) as any Nobleman whatsoever, as by his former free services for the *Palatinats*, *Holland*, &c. may plainly appeare; in which not onely His Majesty but the Queene of *Bohemia* will be pleased to acknowledge his fidelity, ready alwayes, though never obliged by the Court, nor waiting upon His Majesty in that way, to serve him truly in all warlike and honourable employments; and in the late businesse of *Cales* and *Scotland*, though he commanded not in chiefe, and little was done; yet what was best done, was done by him, as the wisest which were there wil acknowledge. So that it may seeme His Majesty made choice of his service as a man of unquestionable fidelity to his Countrey; and the Representative Body of the Kingdome now chose him as a man of undoubted loyaltie to his Sovereign; those two vertues being inseparable in

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the breast of a noble *Englishman*; and which his *Excellence* professes that in his conscience he beleeves this present *Parliament* never intended to disjoine.

Upon this the *Parliament* in this extreme and sad necessity chose him their *Generall*, with a Commission as large and absolute as ever was granted; it being conceived that a more narrow Commission was not worthy to engage him in so dangerous an enterprize, nor of power sufficient to enable him to the accomplishment of great designs. Which was the practice (to compare it with elder times) of that soveraigne Senate of *Rome*; who in times of most imminent danger, waving her usuall government in warre by Consuls, chose a Dictator, putting the sole and independent command of the Souldiery upon one man for a limited time; it being observed by wisest authors, that too strait a limitation of *Generals* in their power has been destructive to their best designs; for which not only the old petty States of *Greece* have been blamed, but great *Carthage* which was able to contest with *Rome* her self, & in later times the *Spaniards* (as wise as they think their Councels) have lost much by it. Therefore in a plain narration we shall endeavour to shew that his *Excellence* has not been wanting in any performance, unlesse disobedience to his power, want of necessary pay for his Souldiers, or too frequent interpositions of another power have sometimes hindred his real intentions. At our march from *Windsor* (where the necessity of the season, and the safeguard of the City had long detained the body of our Army) the Souldiers were much in arreare, which was willingly forbore till the State should be better able, upon promise of constant pay for the future. We came to *Reading*, lay 16. dayes before it; no mony came; upon the Treaty his *Excellence* sent the Conditions to the *Parliament*, who liked it, and the Souldiers to forbear plundering were promised 12. shillings a man, besides their pay, but their pay could not not be had, although his *Excellence* after 8. dayes expectation made a journey himself to *London* for it; in the mean time, by reason of that infected town a great sicknes and mortality fell upon the Army; notwithstanding his *Excellence* by the advice of his Councell of War, intended to march thence for better ayre; but such a generall mutiny was raised for want of mony, that his *Excellence*, though with much courage, and just severity, he began to suppress it, was advised by his Council of War to desist for fear of a generall defection, till mony might come from the City. Notwithstanding upon this discontent, his *Excellence* removing to *Cambridge*

house (which he did to prevent the infection) many of them did disband and go away. The day following his *Excellence* comming thither received intelligence of the defeat of the *Devon* forces under the command of the Earle of *Stanford*, at *Stretton* in *Cornwall*, and that *P. Maurice* and *Marquis Harford* were designed that way. Whereupon he sent an expresse with order to *Sir William Waller*, forthwith to march with his forces to joyn with the forces of *Devon*, and the other Western Countries to prevent the joyning of the enemies forces; and withall writ to the Governor of *Bristol* to assist *Sir W. Waller* with such horse and foot as he could conveniently spare out of his garrison. And that nothing might be wanting for the safety of the Western Country, which any way lay in his *Excellences* power, (well knowing them to be of greatest consequence) at a Councell of War it was fully debated, put to the question, and resolved that a strong party of horse and foot should then be sent after *P. Maurice* to fall upon him before he should joyne with *Hoptons* forces, and the body of the Army to have remained thereabouts till a Fort had been raised upon *Kennets* mouth to have secured the river, and commanded the towne; but that designe was not executed, partly because it was then prest that the moving of the whole Army would better satisfie the City, and would be of greater concernment to march toward *Oxford*, to meet with the auxiliary forces of the associated Counties, and partly by reason of *Sir William Waller* his own Letter, which assured my Lord *Generall* that he would presently obey his commands, and march into the West, which notwithstanding was not done; for *Sir William* marched to *Worcester*, and went not toward the West; whereas had they marched thither, they might have been furnished with money better (those Counties being rich and well affected to us) than in judgment could be expected at *Worcester*, which was a fortified Garrison towne; nor were Horse or Dragoones proper or probable to prevaile against it. However *Sir W. Waller* not certifying his *Excellence* of the altering his purpose, the reasons of it, or of his march to *Worcester*, till after he was engaged in his March, he relyed wholly upon his marching to the West. But by that occasion neere 20. dayes were spent ere hee marched toward the West, in which time the Forces of *P. Maurice*, *Marquess Harford*, and *Hopton* joyned together. The Lord *Generall* (it being much urged as a thing of absolute necessity to move with the whole Army toward *Oxford*, for pleasing of the City, from whom otherwise we were to expect no money) did, though much against
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judgement, proceed in that designe, and marched to *Thame* with the whole Army to meet with the associate Forces of the Counties. Upon his coming thither he found neither his owne Forces, nor those new Forces of that number that was expected and promised, there being not above 1000. Dragoons and Foot at most, which came up to us.

At *Thame* the hand of God in an extreame increase of sicknesse (hundreds in a day falling desperately ill) and by strong unseasonableness of weather, and great raine continuing 14. dayes, the place being upon a flat, clayie & moist ground, made it impossible to advance from that quarter. In which time the army was by sickness, & departure away of most of the auxiliary forces, brought to a number utterly unable to attempt the former design without certaine ruine; the situation of *Oxford* upon the rivet of *Thames* considered, it being impossible to block up the towne without a double number to what his Excellence then had. Yet as soone as the raine ceased, and the waters abated, to make the wayes passable, intelligence being given that *P. Ruperts* had drawne out his horse and foote toward *Buckingham*, and intended there to give battell, having brought thither, as was reported his Canon, called in the Countrey, and made open profession before them, that upon his honor he would fight with our forces, though they were 10. for 1. the Lo: General marched with all speed towards *Buckingham* to fight with the Enemy, whose shewes of bravery, and desires of fighting quickly came to nothing; for when the Lo: General marched within two miles of *Buckingham*, intelligence was given that they had all in a disorderly manner quitted the towne, left their provisions behinde them, horse their foot, and were marcht away the night before. His Excellence then knowing it was not possible for him with his train of Artillery, and foot to follow the enemy to any advantage, or by those forces he had to hinder *P. Rupert* from joyning with the Queene, desisted from his march to *Buckingham*, sending into the towne a party of horse to quarter there that night, and to bring away the enemies provision; he himselfe with the rest of his Army marched to great *Brickhill*, a place most convenient to lye between the enemy and *London*, to defend the associate Countie, as to assist or joyn with the forces of the Lo: Gray of *Griaby*, Sir *John Meldrum*, and Colonell *Cromwell*, to whom his Excellence had given many strict commands to have fought with the Queens forces, and stop her passage up to the King, for which designe they had a competent force; but notwithstanding it

was not done, nor were such opportunities as were offered taken to have fallen upon the enemy; but the Queene and P. *Rupert* were suffered to joyne with all their forces, (yet the Lo: *Gray* of *Grooby* came afterwards readily with his forces to his Excellence.) About this time came intelligence of good successe which Sir *William Waller* had upon the enemy in the West, taken some of their Canon, forced them to retreat; and had pursued them to the *Devises*, of which his Excellence on Tuesday night following the defeat received a letter from Sir *William Waller*, dated on the Monday, confirming the truth of it; which was seconded with further intelligence that Sir *W. Waller's* forces had routed more of the Enemies horse, and beat a convoy of Ammunition sent from *Oxford* by the Lo: *Craford*, and that the Lo: *Wilmos* upon newes thereof, who was with a Regiment of horse going after the Lo: *Craford*, retreated to *Oxford*, and that the enemy had but 1200. foot left in the Westerne Counties, which were got into the *Devises*, and offered to quit that town upon faire conditions, Sir *William Waller* having a victorious and very considerable army before it. Now the case standing thus, the feare of the Westerne parts was changed into joy and thankfulness for victory and successe, his Excellence having out of his great care & circumspection written to Sir *W. Waller* in these words:

I would have you fight with the *Marquesse* of *Hartford*, if possibly you may, not upon unequal termes; if not, to march up after him, and to hinder and trouble him in the Reare as much as in you lies, and so joyne with this Army; otherwise if the King send any supply of force to the Enemy there, (if I have notice thereof) I shall take all possible care to supply you accordingly.

No information at all was given him of any such forces, nor received he any other Letter from Sir *William Waller* (saving one Letter from Sir *Arthur Hazelrick* dated on the Monday at noone, and one other on the Wednesday, desiring his Excellence to take care of the forces at *Oxford*) during the time that he lay before the *Devises*, but still supposed him to proceed prosperously against the enemy; untill the sad news of his being routed was rumoured, and by himselfe written to his Excellence, which was upon the Thursday, not above 48. houres after he received the Letter of his victory (scarce time enough to have rid post betwixt his Excellences army and Sir *William Waller's*) in which Letter Sir *William Waller* assured his Excellence he had lost but 100. men, and some armes; which he doubted not suddenly to rally, and resolved the next day to take the field, not desiring any assistance or supply from his Excellence in either of his Letters. Notwithstanding which Sir *William Waller* (though the care and safety of the Westerne Coun-

tries were committed to him) contrary to his *Excellences* expectation, consent or knowledge, left the West to take care of it selfe, marched to *Warwick*, and from thence sent a Letter by an expresse to his *Excellence*, signifying the imminent danger of the West, especially of *Bristol* and *Gloucester*, unlesse his *Excellence* did speedily advance, and that he was ready at *Warwick* with his *Might* (his owne expression in his Letter) which was affirmed by the messenger to be 2000.) to assist him. The Lo: *General* presently upon receit of this intelligence, though there was no money to pay the Souldiers, and the Army then on its march another way, commanded that the Army should march toward the West, and by advice of the Councell of War, sent order to Sir *W. Waller* to meet ten miles towards *Brackley*: intending the next day after all the forces should have met at some convenient place of *Rendezous*, and so have proceeded to relieve the West, if it were possible, either by falling upon *Oxford*, or marching on to *Bristol*, as should be advised.

But Sir *William Waller* before the receipt of his *Excellences* Order was marched to *Northampton*, a contrary way, and sent Colonell *Ropham*, and Col: *Carre* to signifie that his force was inconsiderable, not above 400. horse (strangely shrunk, if, as is said, he mustered 2000. at *Bristol* after his defeat,) that he had a desire to lay down his Commission, and go to *London*. And the day following he came to his *Excellence*, and assured him that his horse, which was all the strength he had, was so inconsiderable, that a Corporal with an ordinary Squadron of horse would rout them all, and desired he might go to *London*, where he heard there would presently bee new forces and money raised to set him out again. This strange newes quasht the design for reliefe of the West, his *Excellences* army being shrunk through the continual encrease of violent sicknesse, want of pay, cloathing, and other necessities to such a number, as is not requisite to name, that he could not proceed further, lest his army might be engaged to the utter ruine of it, and danger of the Kingdome, since Colonell *Crummels*, and the other forces of those associate Counties were neither willing, nor could with safety be commanded so far from their own Countries. This notwithstanding his *Excellence* before *Bristol* was lost, offered that if the *Parliament* would send him three thousand foot, and five hundred horse to recrew his army, he would march to relieve it; under which number, considering the present weaknes of his army, he could neither hope to atchieve any thing, nor with safety convey his great Artillery.

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We should extend this discourse to too great a length, if we should specify the severall engagements, which from time to time have been made to him that he should be supplied with money and other necessaries, and the often failings, only that he hath not yet received from the State for his Army since the beginning 600000. pounds; besides, at his coming to *Kingstone* last, the souldiers were then promised 5. weeks pay, and clothes; yet after they had staid a fortnight longer, onely a weeks pay was sent to them at *Kingstone*, whereupon, there being so long promised fixe weeks, they disbanded to the number of above a thousand, saying openly they would be no more fooled with promises.

By what misfortune Sir *W. Waller* lost that strong Army, we think it not our part to make any relation; but refer the Reader to what relation his own Commanders will make of it. This brief narration had no other end than to inform those people in the truth of proceedings, who might through ignorance have been too apt to have thrown undeserved aspersions upon our noble *Generall*, and restrain those which have already done it, from wronging themselves any more hereafter: And has extended no farther than the necessity of that required; which a judicious Reader will by the language easily perceive, expressing only what impediments have sometimes crossed his real and honourable designs, and that without any bitterness of contestation, or invectives, conceiving that such things are too much unmanly, and too far below that pen whose subject is so noble as the vindication of such a man. We will onely insert what we have heard his *Excellence* still profess; that notwithstanding his true intentions and unwearied endeavours to serve his Countrey have unjustly met with so many misunderstandings (lesse injuries than those having made other persons of quality desert the Cause which they had chosen, though such loose plants could never be well and honourably rooted) it shall no whit discourage him, much lesse divert him from that, in which his conscience to God, and deare affection to his native Countrey have once engaged him; but that for the future (hoping that the *Parliament* will afford him just and necessary accommodations) his life and fortunes shall not be spared when the Cause shall require an adventure of them; hoping that God will blesse his endeavours, and his Countrey esteeme of them as they deserve; since Fame, though it be not the chiefe end which a wise man shoots at in his undertaking, yet it is such a reward as a noble mind cannot easily contemne.

